

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03  
INR-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03  
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 H-01 NSC-05  
SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01 PA-01 /091 R

DRAFTED BY EA/J:DEBROWN:EH  
APPROVED BY EA/J:NPLATT  
EA/RA:M GELNER  
EA/EP:A GEBER

-----071356 011041Z /17

R 282350Z FEB 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRD, ELAB, JA, US

SUBJECT: JAPAN STEELWORKERS' VISIT TO US

REF: TOKYO 2289

1. PRESIDENT YOSHIJI MIYATA OF JAPAN STEELWORKERS UNION (TEKKOROREN) VISITED THE DEPARTMENT FEB 17 WITH THE LEADERS OF FOUR BIG LOCALS IN TOW. DURING HIS OPENING STATEMENT, MIYATA EMPHASIZED TO AN EA BUREAU GROUP THAT THE SEVEN PERCENT FY 78 GROWTH TARGET MUST BE ACHIEVED "AT ANY PRICE." HIS UNION WOULD THUS AS SHUNTO OBJECTIVES URGE THE JAPANESE PEOPLE TO SPEND MORE, SAVE LESS, AND THE GOJ TO EXPAND PUBLIC WORKS GREATLY. IF DEMAND STILL LAGGED AT MIDSUMMER, TEKKOROREN WOULD PRESS FOR A TAX CUT. ALTHOUGH THE UNION WAS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF FREE AND FAIR TRADE, IT RECOGNIZED

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THAT THE SOLUTION OF BILATERAL STEEL PROBLEMS REQUIRED A DEGREE OF "MANAGEMENT"; IT THEREFORE SAW NO OPTION BUT TO

ACCEPT THE TRIGGER PRICE SYSTEM (TPS).

2. JAPAN COUNTRY DIRECTOR PLATT SAID THAT HE WAS DELIGHTED THAT A GROUP LIKE TEKKOROREN SHARED THE PURPOSES OF THE

STRAUSS-USHIBA STATEMENT, WHICH AMERICANS CONSIDERED AN

EXCELLENT BEGINNING TOWARD THE RESOLUTION OF TRADE PROBLEMS. THE JAPANESE CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUS HAD PLACED GREAT STRAIN ON THE BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONSHIP AND HAD STIMULATED PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES HERE; THE STRAUSS-USHIBA AGREEMENT AND THE TPS WERE AIMED AT EASING THOSE STRAINS, OPENING A NEW PHASE IN THE RELATIONSHIP.

3. ASST SECY HOLBROOKE, JOINING THE DISCUSSION, NOTED THAT THIS WAS HIS FIRST OPPORTUNITY SINCE THE STRAUSS-USHIBA PACT WAS SIGNED TO HEAR AN AUTHORITATIVE EXPOSITION OF JAPANESE LABOR VIEWS. HE WAS HAPPY TO LEARN TEKKOROREN'S POSITIVE REACTION TO THE AGREEMENT AND TO THE TPS. LIVING UP TO THESE COMMITMENTS WAS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE, HE STRESSED, OR ELSE THERE WOULD BE WORSE POLITICAL PROBLEMS LATE IN 1978 THAN THERE WERE LAST AUTUMN. THE US WAS NOT ASKING JAPAN TO RESTRICT ITS IMPORTS.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS POSED BY DAS HEGINBOTHAM MIYATA MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- LIKE AFL-CIO, TEKKOROREN FAVORED ACCELERATED PUBLIC WORKS AS STIMULUS TO EMPLOYMENT OVER TAX CUTS. HE WANTED GOJ TO OVERRULE ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLAINTS, OVERLOOK REQUIREMENT FOR LOCAL FUNDING COMPONENTS, AND IN THIS WAY EMBARK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON BIG PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS NOW SUSPENDED (E.G., ELECTRIC POWER, SHINKANSEN NETWORK).

-- UNLIKE AFL-CIO, TEKKOROREN ATTRIBUTED UNEMPLOYMENT IN US STEEL INDUSTRY NOT TO JAPANESE IMPORTS BUT TO OBSOLESCENCE OF US PLANT AND HEAVY ANTI-POLLUTION COSTS.

5. CHECKS WITH STR AND UNITED STEELWORKERS INDICATE THAT MIYATA'S REMARKS DURING VISITS ELSEWHERE WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE HE MADE AT THE DEPARTMENT. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014